

I

THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
(WEST SUFFOLK)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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THE STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D. G. H. PATEY, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

This post, which became vacant on the death of Dr. Coggin Brown, is occupied by the County Medical Officer of Health in a temporary capacity due to the re-organisation of Local Government and the National Health Service.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

F. HOLMES, F.A.P.H.I.

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Dip. (Hons.) R.I.P.H. AND H.

This Officer is also appointed Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosives Acts.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

S.T. AARON, M.A.P.H.I.,

Meat and Other Foods Certificate R.S.H.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate R.S.H.

Sanitary Science as applied to Building and Public Works Certificate R.S.H.

Tropical Hygiene Certificate R.S.H.

C.P. RAMPLING, M.A.P.H.I.
Dip. P.H.I.E.B.

CLERK/TYPIST
MRS. J.E. HAWKINS

RODENT OPERATOR
C.H.W. HOLDEN

REPORT
Of The
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1972

D. G. H. PATEY M.A., B.M., B.Ch., M.F.C.M., D.P.H.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1972.

The population has increased by 840 persons. The birth rate for 1972 is only slightly above the national average and the death rate is below the national average. The natural increase, which is the excess of births over deaths, is 186.

There were 13 deaths from lung cancer, and 54 deaths from coronary thrombosis. Males predominate, and Members will be aware that cigarette-smoking is a very significant factor in lung cancer, and implicated also in coronary heart disease.

There were 61 notifications of infectious disease including eight cases of infectious hepatitis.

I am grateful for the assistance of your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. F. Holmes and Officers of his department, who have assisted me, during the year, and in the compilation of the report.

I am especially grateful for this help, at a time when your Authority is involved in the tremendous changes due to the Reorganisation of Local Government.

D. G. H. Patey
County Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

	Area.....106,739 acres.		
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population.	25,050	24,210	23,750
Census 1961 (April)	20,070		
Rateable Value	£659,993	£623,875	£552,445

VITAL STATISTICS POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed a rise of 840 over the previous mid yearly estimate compared with 460 in 1971.

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	195	181	376
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>199</u>	<u>188</u>	<u>387</u>
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	15.4	17.2	17.0
Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.9	18.2	18.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	14.8	16.0	16.0
Legitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	97.0	96.0	96.0
Comparability factor for births	.97	1.06	1.06

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	8.0	10.0	7.0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births England and Wales	12.0	12.0	13.0

B I R T H S

There was a drop in the birthrate and the adjusted figure was almost identical to that for England and Wales as a whole. This drop was in line with the current National trend.

D E A T H S

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.1	9.2	9.3
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population	9.3	10.3	10.4
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	12.1	11.6	11.7
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	0.77	0.89	0.89
Comparability factor for deaths	1.15	1.12	1.12

I N F A N T M O R T A L I T Y

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Death of infants of under 1 year of age			
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	13.0	26.0	25.0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births England and Wales	17.0	18.0	18.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	18.0	24.0	29.0

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age decreased from 11 in the previous year to 5 in the year under review, consequently there was a decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate, but this rate must be expected to vary widely from one year to the next because it is based upon a relatively small number of births. The causes were as follows:

Congenital anomalies.....3 Birth injuries.....1
 Other causes of perinatal mortality.....1

The following table gives the causes and number of deaths which occurred during 1972

	<u>Registrar General's Figures</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	
Leukaemia	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	6
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	2
Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	-	1
Anaemias	-	1
Mental Disorders	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	36	18
Other Forms of Heart Disease	8	13
Cerebrovascular Disease	7	13
Other Diseases Of Circulatory System	4	4
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	6	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	-
Peptic Ulcer	1	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	1
Other Diseases Of Digestive System	2	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	2
Diseases Of Musculo-Skeletal System	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc	1	-
Other Causes Of Perinatal Mortality	1	-
Symtoms and Ill Defined Conditions	2	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	-
All Other Accidents	2	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	118	87

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Birth Rate (Corrected)	14.9	18.2	18.0	16.3	17.3	17.1	20.1	18.3	20.7	18.8
Death Rate (Corrected)	9.3	10.3	10.4	8.6	9.7	9.8	11.0	8.9	9.8	10.9
Infant Mortality Rate	13.0	26.0	25.0	11.0	21.0	19.0	22.0	18.4	30.2	15.5
Number of Infant Deaths	5	11	10	4	8	7	9	7	12	6

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections made either by the notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	19	25	44
Scarlet Fever	2	2	4
Whooping Cough	1	3	4
Food Poisoning	1	-	1
Infective Hepatitis	4	4	8

TUBERCULOSIS

No new cases of tuberculosis were reported during the year.

REPORT
Of The
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1972

F. HOLMES, F.A.P.H.I.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

I N T R O D U C T I O N

In presenting this report for 1972 I regretfully record the death of Dr. Coggin Brown in April after twenty-one years service in this County. Dr. Patey referred to Dr. Coggin Brown's death in the last annual report, but I would like to record my appreciation of an officer with whom it had been my pleasure to serve for seventeen of those twenty-one years; thirteen with Thingoe Rural District and four in Bury St. Edmunds.

T H E W O R K O F T H E D E P A R T M E N T I N 1 9 7 2

Staff

Mrs. Wood, our sole Clerk Typist resigned in July and was not replaced until Mrs. Hawkins joined us in November. I am grateful to the other Departments which allowed us to share their staff to keep essential work in progress, but the inevitable backlog of internal work caused unavoidable delays in completing returns and other documents.

The year was an unsettling one as long term programmes could not be formulated due to the impending changes in Local Government. It was necessary, therefore, to reconsider the work outstanding in current programmes and attempt to retime things so that we will be able to hand over to the new Authority as few commitments as possible.

New Legislation

The Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act - in force 30th March, 1972.

This Act meant keeping a close watch on deposited wastes including those brought to Ingham. Immediate decisions have to be taken on the acceptability of complex chemical wastes and it was necessary to consider the effect on the underlying chalk aquifer of each notified load. The co-operation of the River Authority, Hales Containers (Eastern) Ltd., The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and other consultant bodies who made their technical and chemical advice available is recorded with appreciation.

In addition the following Acts involved the Department:-

The Slaughterhouse Policy Agriculture (Misc. Provisions) Act 1972

The Housing Finance Act 1972

The Local Government Act 1972.

" THE RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT "

1. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING

A. Unfit Housing - Representation

67 properties were inspected and represented as unfit during the year resulting in the following action:-

Closing Orders	38
Demolition Orders	22
Undertakings accepted	1
Consideration continuing	6

Other action taken was as follows:-

B. Demolition and Closure

Properties subject of Orders and demolished.....	16
Properties vacated and closed.....	23

C. Reconstruction and Repair

No. of properties subject to Closing Orders reconstructed...	13
No. of " " " Demolition Orders " ...	8
Other houses repaired by formal or informal action.....	44

D. Rehousing

No. of persons displaced from properties subject to Orders..	35
No. of families involved	20

E. Overcrowding

No new cases of overcrowding were discovered.

F. Improvement Grants

Further publicity was given to the grants available and there was a healthy interest shown. Unfortunately there was a noticeable slowing in applications for tenanted properties although owners of newly purchased property were frequent customers. Applicants for grants for second homes, country retreats and speculative ventures continue to apply, but one is moved to question the justification for approvals in some circumstances.

	Standard Grants	Improvement Grants
Approved	32	48
Completed	24	27

G. Tenants requests for formal action. Sec. 19 Housing Act 1964

No formal requests were received, but two properties previously subjected to Improvement Notices had works commenced, one after vacation by the tenant.

H. New Building

There was some slowing in the construction industry in line with the National trend. This and the rapid rise in house prices caused an almost unprecedented rise in applicants for Council houses. The building programme was not seriously affected, but the problems of 'cost yardstick' provide a constant threat.

	<u>Council</u>	<u>Private</u>
New properties completed	49	364

Older Houses - an overall strategy - Circular 50/72

Following the Minister's initiative to obtain greater effort the Council accepted a proposed policy in June to deal with 275 properties by representation or other formal action by 1974. It was further agreed that the Department should press ahead with a programme to encourage full repair and improvement of all property on a five year plan basis.

Residential Caravans

The term "caravan" as applied to the modern version is, perhaps, a misnomer; they are more commonly known as "mobile homes." By building these often multi-unit dwellings on iron subframes provided with wheels the Building Regulations are avoided. However they are popular and are provided with full facilities including central heating. They are connected to all services and are less expensive than traditional houses. All permanent sites are full and there is a waiting list for vacancies.

An increasing trend is the use of caravans incidental to dwellings for occupation by elderly relatives. This is a valid use for this type of accommodation and relieves the problems of old age from both the occupant's and the families' points of view.

The total number of sites and vans in the area was as follows:-

Nature of Use	Sites	Vans
Private Residential	35	147
Local Authority Residential	1	18
Agricultural Workers (seasonal)(est.)	18	43
Showman's Guild (seasonal)	3	9
Incidental to dwelling	18	18
Holiday and touring	1	* 60

* including tent pitches

Once again, little problem has been experienced from itinerant caravan dwellers although two visitors to a lay by on the A 1101 at Fornham All Saints gave cause for complaint. The entrance was eventually blocked and the site cleared.

2. Air

No serious contraventions were noted during the year although there were occasional complaints of motor tyre burning and the burning of other refuse. Fewer offensive smells were reported too and the co-operation of farmers over liquid manure spraying limited the inevitable complaints. However this is still a problem aggravated by the fact that much of this is done by fantail aerial spraying, thus increasing the droplet carry in the atmosphere.

The burning of stubbles has been the cause of national controversy. There is no doubt that this can cause serious nuisance by obstructing visibility and causing fall out of ash, but this need not happen. When it does it is due to utter thoughtlessness on the part of the operator. There is undoubtedly more nuisance from garden bonfires than there is from stubble burning and over a longer period, but much of the strong criticism is blatantly invited - and unnecessarily so.

There have been 3 applications for prior approval of chimney heights, all approved finally.

3. Water

The main supply throughout the district has been by the West Suffolk Water Board which provides its own report. Some complaints of taste - usually of chlorine or of a phenolic nature - have been received and referred to the Board.

Samples from private bores and wells have been examined in the office Laboratory and results were as follows:-

No. of samples taken	67
No. of unsatisfactory results	7

Appropriate advice was given where evidence of contamination existed.

3 Chemical samples from bores near industrial waste disposal sites gave no indication of pollution.

FOOD

A. Meat Inspection

One slaughterhouse only is licenced and two slaughtermen. The standard of hygiene at the premises was maintained and all meat slaughtered was for sale direct from the owner's premises.

Animals killed were:-

Cattle.....71	Pigs.....1
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No tuberculosis or cisticerci were found and meat unfit for consumption was restricted to offals with abscess formations, pneumonia or cysts.

Regular poultry slaughter takes place at only one premises which also has a small rabbit kill. All birds are sold undrawn. Direct farm sales of single birds and larger killings at Christmas are known to take place, but regular inspections of all birds killed is a physical and economic impossibility.

B. Other Foods

The department was consulted on numerous occasions by housewives on the fitness or otherwise of food. Regular visits to wholesale premises were made, the quantity of foodstuff surrendered as unfit amounting to some 2 tons. Of this 302lbs was due to refrigeration failure. The quality of meat delivered to the school meal service caused concern on two occasions when it was necessary to sieze some 50lbs of meat. This was replaced by the suppliers and no proceedings were taken.

Foods which gave rise to complaint during the year included:-

glass in milk - fractured top	...	...	...	...	...	...	(1)
mould in sausage rolls, scones, meat pies, baby food	...						(5)
decomposing chickens	...	...	...	...	...	...	(1)
foreign bodies in bread	...	...	..	...	...	...	(2)
abscesses in meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	(1)
frozen foods - refrigerator breakdown	...	...	...	...			(3)

C. Food Premises

There was little change during the year. All food premises have the basic equipment for hygienic operation, it is unfortunate that not all the staffs use the equipment to the full. The report on school kitchens etc. produced last year brought no comment from the County Council, but the staffs again gave of their best and consulted the department on several occasions. Food premises recorded by type were:-

General Stores	57	Cafes	4
Sweets and Confections	9	Bakeries	4
Licenced premises	46	School Kitchens	18
Canteens	5	Food Wholesale Warehouses	4
Fish Fryers	3	Nursing Institutions	1
Butchers	8	Milk Distributors	3
Fruit Packers	8	Meals on Wheels Kitchens	1

THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT

A. Factories

With the continued expansion of industry the diversification continues. It was felt necessary to oppose the construction of a grinding mill proposed for one site due to the noise levels likely to be generated and the proximity to a housing estate. The application was eventually rejected and an alternative site sought.

Part I Of The Act

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	100	121	5	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	18	27	1	-
Total	119	149	6	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	8	5	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	27	19	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	5	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	2	1	-	-
Total	39	31	1	-	-

The Total number of 'Outworkers' employed in their own homes was 16

B. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act: 1963

The following charts relate to the work carried out in this section. It is still believed that there are several persons employed in offices on farms and in private dwellings to which the Act applies and in respect of which no registration has been effected. It is an offence not to register.

No accidents were reported during the year and none detected following visits. In general the standards are good.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	38	35
Retail Shops	4	29	28
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	1	4	4
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	10	10
Fuel storage depots	-	3	3
Totals	7	84	80

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT 138

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	10	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	-
5	Overcrowding	-	15	Eating facilities	-
6	Temperature	11	16	Floors, passage & Stairs	11
7	Ventilation	2	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	-
8	Lighting	1	18	Protection of young persons - dangerous machinery	-
9	Sanitary conveniences	12	19	Training of young persons - Dangerous machinery	-
10	Washing facilities	10	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
11	Supply of drinking water	2	24	First Aid	5
12	Clothing accommodation	7		Hoists and lifts	-
13	Sitting facilities	-		Other matters	10
				TOTAL	81

C. Agriculture (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act 1956

There was little change in this sphere except that it was pleasing to note the inclusion of superior equipment in proposals for dairy units deposited under Planning Acts and Building Regulations. There is obviously a growing appreciation of the need for proper equipment and if this were more readily available perhaps we might see a marked reduction in the incidence of several diseases and conditions in the slaughterhouse including C. bovis.

D. Disposal of industrial and other business wastes

The district continues to receive industrial waste from a wide area, but one site is rapidly nearing the end of its useful life. However, the introduction of the Deposit of Poisonous Waste Act, referred to earlier, meant considerable work for the Department. The notification of the nature and chemical composition of each load meant a better chance to assess the hazards involved and we were able to consider the full picture more easily. There is no doubt that, with the growing quantities and complexities of industrial wastes it is vital that Local Government takes a positive interest in this problem. It is essential that, where industry is encouraged to grow, the resulting wastes should be catered for. We must plan with industry to dispose of these wastes in a safe and proper manner. It is no good hoping that the wastes produced in our County will be taken away and dealt with in another; we must accept that this is a local problem for which local answers must be found.

T H E R E C R E A T I O N A L E N V I R O N M E N T

A. Open Spaces

The increasing use of the open spaces made available for the public has indicated the desire to share our heritage with the countryman. It is unfortunate that some of these open spaces are also considered as repositories for unwanted articles from picnic wrappings to worn out cars. However, there is a noticeable improvement and the national litter campaign appears to be having some impact.

The Council made further progress towards the provision of toilet facilities at Knettishall and a design was provisionally approved. It is to be hoped that such provision will be expanded by the new Authority after 1974.

The growth of amenity societies shows a healthy interest and there has been an increase in activity by naturalist groups which will no doubt produce an increasing awareness of the need for maintaining standards in the countryside.

B. Swim pools and Bathing places

Regular checks on pools and known bathing places continued and further progress was made towards the proposed Bury St. Edmunds pool. Other water activities are somewhat limited in the area, but the eventual development of areas now used for sand and gravel extraction will no doubt require our attention in the future.

C. Fairgrounds etc.

There are no permanent fairgrounds in the area, but visits were paid to travelling fairs to check on the facilities both from a safety point of view following Circular 112/72 and also for food hygiene and other public health matters. The point-to-point course at Ampton and the cross country and equestrian site at Ickworth Park were also visited. Motor cycle and motor racing also took place to a limited degree in the area.

D. Tourism and Camping

The increase in tourism led to an application for a site for 60 tents and vans at Stanton. Standards were agreed and the development of the site commenced during the year.

G E N E R A L E N V I R O N M E N T A L S E R V I C E S

A. General Nuisances

The variety of enquiries - and complaints - continues to underline the wide spectrum of the Department's work.

Formal complaints were made on the following matters:-

Housing defects	78	Smoke, dust and fumes	6
Depositing refuse	17	Noise	7
Water supplies	7	Insect pests	85
Keeping of Animals	9	Dead animals	1
Disposal of manure	18	Ponds and ditches	9
Sewage disposal	8	Caravans	5

B. Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning

(1) Scarlet Fever

4 Notified cases were visited for contacts and food handlers.
No formal action was necessary.

(2) Infective Hepatitis

Routine investigations continue. No formal action was necessary in the eight cases notified.

(3) Salmonellae

Two positive cases were investigated of Salmonellae typhimurium but no further cases developed from either case. One case of Salmonellae dublin at a farm produced no human illness.

(4) Food Poisoning

One case investigated resulted in no organism being identified, but was undoubtedly induced by eating a turkey which had been surplus to requirements at Christmas, badly handled, placed in a deep freeze, then cooked in February after inadequate thawing. Other cases investigated of both Winter and Summer diarrhoea and vomiting resulted in negative results. The widespread occurrence of these outbreaks without any apparent bacterial cause raises many questions which deserve investigation. Is it chemical? Is it water borne? What is the cause?

(5) Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations

The follow-up of contacts arriving in this Country, without valid vaccination certificates has increased and other 'contact' investigations following recent smallpox cases has taken up a considerable amount of time and travel, but this work is important with international travel now so general.

C. Destruction of Pests

Mr. Holden, our sole operator, performed his task well during the year which was somewhat lighter than the previous year. Again difficulty with mice was experienced, but Warfarin was still fully effective against rats.

There were 341 complaints made direct to the office all of which were dealt with in addition to 7 cases of insect infestation and some 80 wasp nests destroyed in or around dwellings. Swarming bees were reported to known bee keepers when healthy, but three diseased swarms were destroyed. Advice was also given in 2 cases of infestations by bats without the need to destroy these valuable creatures.

Lectures and Demonstrations

Invitations to address both adult and juvenile groups were readily accepted and groups of schoolchildren were welcomed to the office to see the work of the Department.

S A N I T A R Y S E R V I C E S

This information has been supplied by:-

S.M. CASSON, F.I.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E., ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

A. Sewerage

As forecast in last year's report the scheme for Sicklesmere and Little Whelnetham was duly completed by Messrs. D. & H. (Contractors) Cambridge Ltd early in the year.

Work proceeded on the Rede and Chedburgh Sewerage Scheme and towards the end of the year only restoration and renovation works at the Sewage Works and the completion of the Pumping Station at Rede remained outstanding. Some delay ensued on the Blackbourne Valley Scheme due to our inability to agree on sites for pumping stations, this delay meant that by the end of the year the scheme had not been considered by the Ministry. However, the Pakenham Fen Scheme proceeded and a tender was accepted from Messrs. D. & H. (Contractors) Cambridge Ltd and work will be put in hand early in the new year.

It would appear now that the only scheme which will be outstanding by the time the Authority amalgamates in April 1974 will be part of the Blackbourne Valley Scheme which is fully expected will have started during 1973.

B. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The southern cutting at the refuse Pulverizer was completely filled during the year and the surface restored. Grass was planted directly onto the pulverized material and grew satisfactorily. No other changes have taken place in refuse collection and disposal by the Council other than a certain amount of co-operation has been undertaken between the Borough of Bury St. Edmunds and the Thingoe Council to assist one another in the disposal of refuse loads. Some of the Thingoe loads are now being taken to the Borough Council's tip at West Stow and some of the Borough Council loads are being taken to the Thingoe Council's Pulverizer at Whelnetham.

P O S T S C R I P T

"The End of an Era"

This is the last report to be submitted to the members of Thingoe Rural District Council; but the work will go on. However, I think that a pause for reflection on what has been achieved to date may be forgiven and will be of interest to many.

I have been examining the reports of my predecessors over the last fifty years and have noted the changes in the nature of the work and the problems to be faced. The reports produced indicated the worries of the day which were:-

1924 Mr. Montgomery - "It is regretted that the Council has no control over the killing of pigs in rear gardens."

"36 pail closets have been substituted for privies... no improvement to the flow in the ditch at Horringer can be expected until it is dug out as it is solid with filth (from privies) for several yards."

"There will not be a great improvement until there is a public service for the removal of domestic rubbish."

"Samples from the public wells most of which are some 30 feet deep have proved satisfactory, but two new fixed buckets should help to keep the wells hygienic."

"I have arranged for a cesspool to be constructed to replace the offensive blood hole at the slaughterhouse".

"An open yard is used for milking and as long as this is not used as a manure store it is more hygienic than a covered yard."

1934 Mr. Ford - "Housing inspection has been carried out in several villages, no formal action is necessary".

"The public well at Barrow has been cleaned. The filth was of an exceptional nature and a lime dressing has been put in the well. The security fastening of the top has taken place against further misuse".

"Five cases of Scarlet Fever have been removed to the isolation hospital and disinfection carried out.

"The well at Conyers Green has been provided with a pump and this is a big improvement."

"Mrs. Talbot has aired the eight new cottages at Barrow and requested 5/- as payment."

"Three sites for new wells have been visited by Mr. Williams the Diviner and in each case water was found."

- 1944 Mr. Ford. - "The experience of running small pumped water schemes has prompted the Council to be in the forefront when grants become available to provide generally for the whole district."
- "There is virtually no public drainage and sewerage in Thingoe. "The closet accommodation is estimated at WC 1%; pail closet 59%; and vaults 40%."
- "A public scavenging scheme was deferred due to the additional work in cartage of water."
- "There are 216 cow keepers with 3,974 cows but only 7% are tuberculosis tested."
- "In 1936 some members were apprehensive about rehousing 1 in 15 of the total population. This has been exceeded. The drift from the land may well cause difficulties for Thingoe and the new (Housing) Act means we can now provide some 200 houses for Agricultural workers at a penny rate."
- 1954 Mr. Casson - "Since 1951 over 100 miles of water mains have been laid in the District and the pumping stations and reservoirs completed."
- "A sixth of the total number of houses in the District are now connected to sewerage systems."
- "A weekly refuse collection now operates in six parishes and a fortnightly collection in the rest."
- 1964 "The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act is now in force and is designed to protect the health and welfare of persons employed in such premises for the first time."
- "The need for public conveniences on main traffic routes was again discussed and negotiations put in hand concerning the financing of such provision."
- "The Council lost control of the Water Undertaking which now supplies over 90% of properties."
- "The number of caravans increased due to the extreme pressure on housing resources mainly by newly married couples."
- "The Council fully aware of the need agreed to concentrate on expansion of sewerage facilities."
- "The Aberdeen typhoid outbreak caused considerable work in tracing all Argentine corned beef. The press and television publicity has contributed to advancing standards."
- "A small number of consumers now receive their milk in plastic packs."
- "The ten year clearance programme is now under way, but there is an increasing demand for old property of any type from private purchasers prepared to spend large sums on reconstruction."

1974 One can only surmise the problems which will face your successors, but problems there will no doubt be.

The influence of European practices and free flow of personnel will result in changes in our attitudes and systems and public health will gradually become a matter of international control.

- The technological advances will bring more and more complex problems with less and less time to evolve answers.

- The intensification of food production methods will create problems of environmental significance.

- The demand for homes and factories and the desire to preserve our architectural and historical heritage will create conflicts.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the present staff and those who have served before - to record our thanks to the present members and to those who have supported and actively encouraged the work of the Inspectorate at all times.

